3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Human occupation in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range (Sierra Nevada) dates to thousands of years ago; important habitation and activity sites are found in many areas where landforms and resources important to early Native American populations could be found. To some extent, human intervention has shaped the present-day landscape and the natural resources found at AVWA and SCWA. From the introduction of invasive plant species to the large-scale cutting of timber, introduction of cattle ranching in the19th and early 20th centuries, and impoundment of streams and rivers, what may at first appear to be a pristine natural setting has in fact been heavily influenced by people's manipulation and uses of the land. A brief review of the sequence of Native American and Euro-American occupation and their effects on the landscape is presented below.

3.4.1 PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

In general, the prehistory of AVWA and SCWA and the surrounding area has not been extensively investigated and the sequence of cultural manifestations is not well understood. However, sites and artifacts that have been documented in AVWA and SCWA appear to relate to the cultural chronologies based on sites found primarily in the nearby Tahoe Basin. Heizer and Elsasser (1953) were the first researchers to postulate an archaeological chronology for the north-central Sierra Nevada. The mutually exclusive site locations and tool technologies noted from the Tahoe Basin and the surrounding region reveal two main cultural manifestations or "complexes":

- **The Martis Complex (ca. 5000–1300 Before Present [B.P.])**. This period is also commonly referred to as the Middle Archaic and was defined by a heavy reliance on flaked basalt implements and milling stones and slabs for the grinding of seed foods. The predominance of flaked and ground stone artifacts on archaeological sites of this time appears to reflect an economic focus on hunting and seed gathering. This complex was first identified at site CA-Pla-5 in Martis Valley, south of Truckee.

- **The King's Beach Complex (ca. 1300–150 B.P.)**. In contrast with the Martis Complex, technology during this time was characterized by chert and obsidian toolstone, bedrock mortars, smaller projectile points (presumably arrow points), and an economic emphasis on fishing and seed gathering. The King's Beach Complex is usually attributed to the late prehistoric Washoe. Archaeological site CA-Pla-9 on the north shore of Lake Tahoe is typical of the Kings Beach Complex.

Heizer and Elsasser's 1953 archaeological sequence for the north-central Sierra was revised and expanded to reflect research findings by Elston (1970, 1972), Elston and Davis (1972), and Elston et al.(1976). Based on later discoveries of stratified archaeological deposits, the presence of stemmed-series projectile points from the Great Basin, and accompanying radiocarbon dates, the regional chronological framework was amended to include a pre-Martis culture and defined a transitional phase between Martis and Kings Beach (Elston et al. 1976). Elston's "Pre-Archaic" (pre-Martis) incorporates the ill-defined **Tahoe Reach Phase** and broadly places the earliest Eastern Front prehistory between 10,000 and 8000 B.P. It is generally equated with small, highly mobile groups whose economy was focused on game hunting. Little evidence for sites of this phase has been found in the Sierra Nevada. Its presence in the region is postulated based on sites of this age at lower elevations. Better-defined cultural manifestations defined by Elston (1970, 1972), and Elston et al. (1976) include:

The Early Archaic (8000–5000 B.P.). Consisting of the Spooner Phase, the Early Archaic is described by Elston et al. (1976) as "a hypothetical construct to name the interval for which little archaeological data existed, and it remains poorly known to the present." This cultural phase has been characterized (but not without some controversy; see Milliken and Hildebrandt 1997) by the presence of projectile points of the Pinto (Gatecliff) Split Stem series and Humboldt series found predominantly in the Great Basin. Paleoenvironmental conditions during this period reflect a widespread Middle Holocene warming and drying trend. General cultural patterns attributed to the Early Archaic include small game hunting, increased milling of hard seeds, and a mixed-mode, forager-collector subsistence strategy.

The Middle Archaic (5000–1300 B.P.). As defined by Elston et al. (1976), this period is represented by the Early Martis (5000–3000 B.P.) and the Late Martis (3000–1300 B.P.) phases. During this time, conditions became cooler and wetter, similar to the climate experienced today. Human populations increased and diversified, though remained small enough to prevent resource overexploitation (Zeier and Elston 1992). The origins and cultural implications of the Martis Complex remain a mystery to local researchers and debate continues (e.g., Bloomer et al. 1997; Clewlow 1984; Duke 1998; Elsasser and Gortner 1991; Jackson et al. 1995). Current research and discussion focuses on whether the Martis Complex represents a distinct cultural phenomenon or a unique technological system specializing in Sierra Nevada resources, particularly the uncharacteristic reliance on basalt toolstone. Lindström (1985), for instance, speculates that Martis reflects an indigenous Sierran culture rather than representing groups from Great Basin or California, thus incorporating the mountain setting into their seasonal settlement and subsistence patterns.

The Late Archaic is divided into the **Early Kings Beach Phase (1300–700 B.P.)** and **Late Kings Beach Phase (700–150 B.P.)** (Elston et al.1994). The transition from Middle to Late Archaic/ethnographic Washoe is described as one of "profound cultural change" (Elston 1986:19). Environmental conditions continued to be temperate during the Late Archaic, although periodic warm-dry intervals appear to have resulted in substantial and prolonged droughts (Lindström and Bloomer 1994). Socio-economic and technological changes likely resulted from population increases and "demographic packing" and consequent "interspersed" settlement patterns (Elston 1986). Innovations attributed to the Late Archaic include the bow and arrow, the increased use of bedrock mortars for piñon pine exploitation, and an increase in the use of simple flake tools. The inclination toward basalt and other coarse-grained material for tool manufacture decreased during this time, while obsidian and chert were increasingly exploited.

In summary, the current cultural chronology for the Sierra/Lake Tahoe region recognizes six generally distinct phases, each of which can be defined in large part by the presence of distinct projectile points found on archaeological sites:

- Tahoe Reach Phase (ca. 10,000–8000 B.P.)—Great Basin Stemmed series projectile points.
- Spooner Phase (ca. 8000–5000 B.P.)—various large basalt projectile points.
- Early Martis Period (ca. 5000–3000 B.P.)—Martis Contracting Stem and Martis Split Stem projectile points.
- Late Martis (ca. 3000–1300 B.P.)—Martis Corner Notched, Elko Corner Notched, and Elko Eared points.
- Late Archaic is divided into:
  - Early Kings Beach Phase (ca.1300–800 B.P.)—Rosegate and Gunther Series points.
  - Late Kings Beach Phase (ca. 800–150 B.P.)— Desert Side-Notched and Cottonwood series projectile points.

3.4.2 ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

Within and near AVWA and SCWA, accounts differ as to the exact boundaries of Native American tribal groups that have identified the area as their traditional territory. Although cultural and tribal boundaries tended to shift over time or be poorly defined, research indicates that the region was essentially a border area between the Washoe, centered around Lake Tahoe, and the Maidu to the west. Both of these tribes may have used the landscape within AVWA and SCWA and exploited its natural resources during prehistoric times and into the ethnographic and historic eras.

The Washoe-Maidu boundary near AVWA and SCWA differ somewhat between maps published by Kroeber (1925) and d'Azevedo (1986). Still different divisions of Washoe and Maidu territories can be found in Riddell (1978). It is important to note that these conflicting boundaries were drawn as the result of ethnographic observations, historical accounts, and oral interviews. Information could vary from region to region, between tribes, and likely even between members of the same tribe. In addition, boundaries were often flexible and, in the end, were not necessarily delineated according to landscape features, oral tradition, or resource area. Regardless, despite cultural differences, these tribes appear to have inhabited and used the landscape in similar ways. This was

particularly the case when resources were abundant, or where trade and travel routes or mountain passes were present and joint use was typically accommodated through negotiation (d'Azevedo 1986:467).

WASHOE

Although the Tahoe Basin to the south of AVWA and SCWA is considered the spiritual and geographic center of the Washoe world (Downs 1966:16), at the time of Euro-American contact, Washoe settlements were found in the larger valleys on and along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada between Honey Lake to the north and Little Antelope Valley to the south (d'Azevedo 1986:468; Carlson 1986; Elston 1986:13; Price 1962, 1980). They are members of the widespread Hokan linguistic group and the only Great Basin group to speak a non-Numic language. Although the evidence is far from conclusive, Kroeber (1925:569) and Downs (1966:70) postulate an early relationship prior to 4,500 years ago between the Hokan speaking Washoe and other Hokan speakers in California.

The traditional Washoe were organized into basic household or extended family units residing in multifamily communities (Barrett, S.A. 1917:8; Jackson et al. 1994). Groups maintained ties with each other as well as with neighboring Penutian-speaking Maidu and Miwok to the north, south, and west, and with the Paiute to the east in the Great Basin. The Washoe had one of the highest precontact population densities in the region (Lindström and Bloomer 1994:27; Price 1980) and pursued an "intensive subsistence strategy and a demographically packed settlement pattern" as defined by Zeier and Elston (1986:379). This land use pattern involved high seasonal mobility, mixed strategies of foraging and collecting, and the intensive exploitation of various perennial and seasonal floral and faunal resources.

Fishing was one of the most important forms of subsistence acquisition available to the Washoe in lake, stream, and river settings and d'Azevedo (1986:473) and Lindström (1992:308) suggest that this activity provided the most predictable and consistent source of year-round food during prehistoric and ethnographic times. The hunting of large and small mammals provided hides, bones, ligaments, and other important materials but also constituted another important food source. The late summer and early fall were preferred hunting seasons when species such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and mountain sheep were at their most robust. Hares and jackrabbits (white-tailed jackrabbit, cottontail and snowshoe hare) also supplied an abundant meat source and drives were organized in late fall to take advantage of this important resource.

The wide variety of flora available within Washoe territory provided a substantial part of their diet and many species were valued for their medicinal properties. The varied distribution of seasonally available plants was a major factor in the dispersal of Washoe groups and their frequent movements over a large range. Two of the most important Washoe staple foods, pine nuts (*ta gim*) and acorns (*malin*) for example, were available mostly in the late fall and winter when other plant resources were becoming scarce.

In general, Washoe lifeways remained largely unchanged for centuries until the middle decades of the 19th century. Would-be miners, loggers, ranchers, and Euro-American settlers began to flood the region following the gold strikes in the Sierra Nevada foothills and the silver discoveries in the nearby Nevada Comstock Lode. The Washoe, like many Native American groups in California and Nevada, suffered greatly from the loss of their traditional territory and lifeways and their population decreased dramatically and soon became marginalized. Today, however, the Washoe people constitute a thriving native community and they are reinvesting in their heritage and culture through new-found political, economic, and social influence throughout the Sierra Nevada region.

NORTHEASTERN MAIDU

The Northeastern or "Mountain" Maidu traditionally inhabited a region including the drainages of the American and Feather rivers in the northern Sierra Nevada (Riddell 1978). Accounts indicate that because of the deep snows and marshy conditions found in nearby Sierra Valley for most of the year, the Maidu spent little time there;

however, no information specific to the Antelope Valley is known to exist. It can be assumed that the Maidu in the northernmost areas of their territory had contact with the Pit River tribes (Kroeber 1925) and they certainly would have had some kind of relationship with the Washoe peoples to the south.

The Maidu, unlike their Washoe neighbors, spoke a series of dialects of the Maiduan family of languages, classified as California Penutian (Riddell 1978:370). In general, Maiduan speakers inhabited areas above 4,000 feet, such as the Sierra and Mohawk valleys. Village sites were only seasonal and were in use during the warmer months, thereby limiting to a certain degree their contact with the Washoe. Maidu settlement patterns used a "village community" system as described by Kroeber 1925:398), which served as the only formal political organization of the tribe. Each community, consisting of several villages, was politically autonomous and included an often larger central village where an earth-covered lodge and dance-house were built. This central village served as the political hub of the community and often served as the residence for the head-man who served primarily as an advisor and spokesman for the community members, although he did not necessarily wield strict political power (Dixon 1905:224).

Village community territories in the Maidu's mountainous environment were typically well defined by the valleys in which they were established (Kroeber 1925:398). In the larger glacial valleys (such as the Sierra and Antelope valleys), the floors were often covered with snow during the winter months but became marshy drainages during the warmer seasons. The Maidu took advantage of these resource-rich valley bottoms and, according to Dixon (1905:175), "selected sites along the edges of these valleys and rarely lived out in the middle of the level stretches." Archaeological evidence also demonstrates the tendency of the Maidu to live in those settings that provided easy access to subsistence resources and good views of the surrounding landscape (McMillin 1963:63); Riddell and Pritchard 1971).

As with their Washoe neighbors, hunting and fishing, particularly in the higher elevations of the Maidu territory, were important subsistence activities. Fish species inhabiting the rivers and creeks within individual village community territories were caught with small baglike nets or seine nets stretched across a stream channel (Dixon 1905:143). Game such as grizzly bear, deer, elk, and various birds were hunted individually or en masse using drives and traps. Although pursued chiefly as food sources, game animals also provided a valuable source for raw materials such as hides, tendons, and bones, which were used for clothing and the numerous implements necessary for daily life.

Although the Washoe were one of the last tribes in the region to be affected by incursions of Euro-Americans, the Maidu came into regular contact with Spanish explorers and American trappers during the early decades of the 19th century. In 1808, Gabriel Moraga first encountered the Maidu on his expeditions up the lower reaches of the Feather River and, by the 1830s, Hudson's Bay Company trappers were regularly traveling through Maidu territory. However, it wasn't until the discovery of gold at Coloma in 1848 that sustained and often disastrous contacts became the norm. Although the patterns of Euro-American impact on Maidu culture mirror those of other California tribes, the Maidu have a renewed interest in their traditional culture and values. The Maidu, like the Washoe, represent a growing and proud native California community.

3.4.3 HISTORIC-ERA SETTING

Although contact between Native American tribes and Euro-Americans had begun decades earlier, a party of would-be miners first entered the Sierra Valley (adjacent to and to the northwest of Antelope Valley) in the summer of 1850 and essentially ushered in an era of sustained nonnative control of the region (Sinnot 1982). However, trapper and adventurer James P. Beckwourth is most often credited with the "discovery" of the Sierra Valley in 1851 where he settled the following year:

> In the spring of 1852 I established myself in Beckwourth Valley (present-day Sierra Valley), and finally found myself transformed into a hotel-keeper and chief of a trading post. My house is considered the emigrant's landing-place, as it is the first ranch he arrives at in the golden state, and is the only house between this point and Salt Lake. Here is a valley two hundred and forty miles in circumference,

> containing some of the choicest land in the world. Its yield of hay is incalculable; the red and white clovers spring up spontaneously, and the grass that covers its smooth surface is of the most nutritious nature. When the weary, toil-worn emigrant reaches this valley, he feels himself secure; he can lay himself down and taste refreshing repose, undisturbed by the fear of Indians….

By the late 1850s numerous trails and wagon roads were established to handle the transport of goods and people from Sierra Valley, and the towns of Beckwourth, Loyalton, and Sierraville to the Nevada Territory and back. The town of Beckwourth in the northern part of the valley was founded in 1852 and the southern town of Smith's Neck was founded in 1854. By 1863, with the Civil War raging in the eastern states, the Unionist sentiments of the Smith's Neck residents led to the renaming of the town to Loyalton (Kirkham 1976). The northern part of the valley was settled primarily by farmers and ranchers and was less populated than the southern portion of the valley and the surrounding area (SVRCD 2005). The southern portion of the valley was more heavily wooded and communities such as Sierraville and Loyalton served as ranching and lumber towns that developed in support of the Comstock Lode mines (named after one of the discoverers of the silver deposits) in Nevada.

Although the Gold Rush of the late 1840s and the early and mid-1850s often brought would-be miners to California from all corners of the globe, most of the immigrants that settled in the Sierraville and Loyalton area were born in the United States. The backgrounds of several area pioneers are typical of those that settled near AVWA and SCWA (Fariss & Smith 1882):

> Walter Banet—Born in Mississippi in 1855, he graduated from the Missouri Medical College and in 1881 was stationed in Nevada as a surgeon with the U.S. Indian Service. By 1882 he had settled in Loyalton and established a thriving medical practice.
>
> Thomas F. West—Born in 1820 in Rensselaer County, New York, he worked as a farmer and small merchant in New York and Wisconsin before coming to California in 1871. By 1882 he had settled on a farm about 2 miles northeast of Loyalton.
>
> Michael Hardin—Born in 1819 in Bergen, New Jersey, he came to California in 1851 and worked as a miner in Placer and Yuba Counties. In 1857 he purchased a 240 acre ranch 1.5 miles north of Sierraville.
>
> E. H. Hamlen—Born in Maine in 1836, he arrived in San Francisco in 1857 and worked as a miner and logger in Alleghany (Sierra County) until 1859 before settling on a 540-acre farm and ranch in the Sierra Valley.

Sierra County split from Yuba County in 1852 and had a population of 11,400 by 1860. Euro-American settlers of Sierra Valley such as those mentioned above were most highly concentrated along the rim of the valley and in the forested areas. The predominant economic industries of the valley included dairy and beef cattle, hay, and lumber. With the decline of the mining boom in California and in the Nevada Comstock Lode, the population of Sierra County by 1870 was only 5,600. The highest concentration of people in Sierra Valley fell into two areas: the communities along Highway 70 from Beckwourth to Chilcoot, and logging communities such as Sierraville in the southern portion of the Valley (SVRCD 2005).

Although beef, hay, and dairy products, such as butter, were produced in large quantities in Sierra Valley and the surrounding region, logging constituted the other major industry. Numerous lumber companies and their associated facilities were established near Sierraville and Loyalton during the latter decades of the 19th century. Lumber mills such as the Winnie Smith Mill in Antelope Valley, the California Mill on Smithneck Creek southeast of Loyalton, and the Lewis Mill, also on Smithneck Creek, processed the timber cut from local hillsides. Lumber companies, such as the Roberts Lumber Company (subsequently the Clover Valley Lumber Company and the Verdi Lumber Company), were major contributors to the local economy into the early decades of the 20th century. However, as commercially viable stands of timber were exhausted in the area, most of these companies went out of business or consolidated with other firms and shifted operations to more productive regions. Although logging continues near AVWA and SCWA today, it is generally localized and the industry no longer serves as one of the major economic mainstays of the region. Since the 1980s in particular two issues substantially reduced the amount of timber

harvested in the region. Helms and Tappeiner (1996) noted that conservation efforts to protect wildlife habitat resulted in a two-thirds reduction in the harvest of timber on public lands throughout California. Secondly, public opinion has led to efforts to restrict old-growth stands from commercial logging. Although few such stands are present near AVWA and SCWA, the general statewide pattern of restricted logging substantially reduced the timber industry in the region.

3.4.4 DOCUMENTED CULTURAL RESOURCES

Although numerous prehistoric and historic-era sites, features, and isolated artifacts have been identified in the AVWA and SCWA vicinity, only five cultural resources have been documented directly within AVWA (Table 3.4-1) and six sites have been identified within SCWA, including some that have been marked on USGS topographic quadrangle maps but for which no further documentation is available (Table 3.4-1). Although conducting a record search through the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) is often an initial step in researching a project area within California, it was determined that the Sierraville Ranger Station of the U.S. Forest Service maintained the most detailed and updated files. Consequently, records on file at this location were consulted in lieu of those curated by the CHRIS.

Table 3.4-1
Cultural Resources Documented in the Wildlife Areas

Resource Number	Association	Type	Twp.	R.	Sec.	NRHP/CRHR Status
Antelope Valley Wildlife Area						
			Antelope Valley USGS Quad.			
FS-05-17-56-287	historic-era	refuse deposit	21N	15E	34	not evaluated
FS-05-17-56-289	prehistoric	lithic scatter—habitation	22N	15E	34	not evaluated
CA-Sie-693, FS-05-17-56-317	prehistoric	lithic scatter	21N	15E	28	not evaluated
FS-05-17-56-318	prehistoric	lithic scatter—milling station	21N	15E	28	not evaluated
FS-05-17-56-319	historic	Winnie Smith Mill	21N	15E	28	not evaluated
Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area						
			Loyalton USGS Quad.			
CA-Sie-391, FS-05-17-56-06	prehistoric	Badenaugh Canyon petroglyphs	21N	16E	33	not evaluated
CA-Sie-155	prehistoric	possible hunting blind	12N	16E	32	not evaluated
n/a	historic-era	possible mill site	21N	15E	36	not evaluated
n/a	historic-era	Mrs. Peck's Hotel—1876	21N	16E	32	not evaluated
n/a	historic-era	Boca & Loyalton Railroad	*	*	*	not evaluated
			Sardine Peak USGS Quad.			
FS-05-17-56-444	historic-era	refuse deposit	20N	16E	32	not evaluated

Notes: CRHR = California Register of Historical Resources; NRHP = National Register of Historic Places; Quad. = quadrangle; Twp. = Township; R. = Range; Sec. = Section; USGS = U.S. Geological Survey
* various locations
Source: Data compiled by EDAW in 2007.

In order to determine if any culturally important sites or locations were within the AVWA or SCWA that might be of concern to the Native American community, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted and a review of the Sacred Lands File was requested. A list of appropriate Native American tribal organizations and representatives that might have an interest in or concerns with the LMP was identified. The NAHC reported that no sensitive properties were situated within the AVWA or SCWA. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California were contacted, in accordance with the NAHC's suggestion, but no comments were received.

FS-05-17-56-287

Situated near the remains of the Winnie Smith lumber mill (FS-05-17-56-319), this refuse deposit measures approximately 300 to 350 yards NW-SE and about 200 yards NE-SW. Documented artifacts include milled lumber, square-cut and wire nails, a mining sluice box, a Ford Model T fender, tobacco tins, sanitary cans, sections of stove pipe, fragments of bottle glass of various colors, sheet metal, and enamel ware fragments. With the exception of the sluice box, which suggests that placer mining was conducted in the area around the turn of the last century, the deposit does not appear characteristic of any particular industry or economic endeavor. However, its location, essentially adjacent to the Winnie Smith Mill, suggests that this site represents debris related to the construction and operation of this facility.

FS-05-17-56-289

This prehistoric site consists of a sparse scatter of stone artifacts including two grinding slabs and lithic debitage (the sharp-edged waste material left over when someone creates a stone tool). The debitage assemblage includes flakes and fragments of black basalt, obsidian, and dark red chert. No formal implements other than the grinding slabs were noted at this location. The scatter occurs in an area measuring approximately 90 meters NE-SW and 48 meters NW-SE and appears to represent a short-term campsite dedicated to the exploitation of locally available floral resources and the production and/or curation of stone tools.

CA-SIE-693 (FS-05-17-56-317)

Lithic artifacts recorded at this location consist of a sparse scatter of chert debitage in various colors ranging from salmon pink to dark red, an obsidian projectile point, a basalt biface fragment, and a tan/red chert core. The site record indicates that most of the debitage consists of small "interior" flakes bearing no trace of cortical surfaces. This observation suggests that the reduction activities undertaken at this site were geared toward the maintenance of flaked stone implements. Few, if any, were manufactured directly from quarried or otherwise gathered fragments of raw material. These artifacts were found within an area measuring about 95 meters NE-SW by 50 meters NW-SE. Two possibly cultural shallow cups or basinlike indentations on the vertical face of a boulder were also documented at this location. A more detailed analysis is required to determine whether or not these features are natural in origin.

FS-05-17-56-318

This prehistoric site includes a sparse to moderately dense scatter of lithic artifacts and milling features occurring within an area measuring about 80 meters N-S and 40 meters E-W. The lithic artifacts consist of debitage of various materials including obsidian, basalt, chert, several biface fragments, and a possible drill. A total of five granitic outcrops exhibit eight mortar cups ranging in depth from 1–10 centimeters. The presence of the mortar cups and the wide range of lithic artifacts suggests that a number of subsistence and technological activities were conducted on this site, including the processing of locally available floral foodstuffs (probably nuts and/or various seeds) and the production and curation of flaked stone implements.

FS-05-17-56-319 (WINNIE SMITH MILL)

Relatively little is known regarding the operations at the mill, although this lumber mill site is one of the most prominent historic-era sites in AVWA and the vicinity and some of the descendents of the original mill's owners still live in the area. This extensive complex was one of the larger mills in the Sierraville/Loyalton area and was no doubt a major employer during the early decades of the 20th century. The mill shut down during the 1940s and by the 1950s the facility was in a state of disrepair, which is reflected in its designation as "Ruins" on the Antelope Valley USGS topographic quadrangle map dated 1955.

Numerous photographs of the mill exist, which is fortunate given that virtually all aboveground structures and buildings were destroyed in the 2005 Harding fire, which burned over a large area within AVWA. The site was documented in its current state in 2005, and numerous building foundations, structure remains, and artifacts related to the mill operations were noted.

CA-SIE-391 (FS-05-17-56-06) (BADENAUGH CANYON PETROGLYPHS)

Although numerous flaked and ground stone artifacts have been found at this site, the dominant feature of this locale consists of one large and one smaller volcanic boulder bearing numerous weathered petroglyphs. The petroglyphs were originally documented by Louis Payen of California State University Sacramento in 1966 and the majority consists of concentric circular or "bulls-eye" motifs. Cupules and other circular and line figures have also been noted on the larger boulder; only the circular patterns have been documented on the smaller adjacent rock.

Other petroglyph sites have been found in the region. The two nearest roughly comparable sites include one at Kyburz Flat, 7 miles north of Hobart Mills, and another 12 miles north of Truckee in the Sardine Valley (Payen 1966). The meaning of the cupules, concentric circles, and other similar petroglyph designs is not known although some present-day Native Americans suggest that they may have been associated with male and/or female puberty rituals.

CA-SIE-155

Located just below and on the southwest side of a rocky hill above Bear Valley Creek, this feature may be the remains of a prehistoric hunting blind. An oval pit and a low rock wall measure approximately 3 meters north-south and 2.5 meters east-west. Documented in 1976 by Louis Payen, this feature overlooks a present-day game trail where a single basalt flake was found. However, it is not possible to directly associate the flake with the feature nor is it possible to definitively associate the feature with any specific temporal period or cultural group.

MILL AND HOTEL SITES

Two possible historic-era sites are recorded on the Loyalton USGS topographic quadrangle map maintained by the U.S. Forest Service Sierraville District Office in Sierraville, Sierra County. One consists of an unnamed and undocumented temporary sawmill site; this may have been a satellite mill operated by one of the large lumber firms that dominated the local economy during the late 19th or early 20th centuries. Such sites are common occurrences in the region and may also represent the remains of small companies or individually owned facilities.

No documentation could be found regarding the location of "Mrs. Pecks Hotel—1876" as plotted on the Loyalton USGS map kept at the US Forest Service Sierraville District office, although this historic-era site may consist of the remains of a boarding house or hotel that catered to the early ranching and timber industries. These industries constituted the main employers of the region during the latter decades of the 19th century.

BOCA & LOYALTON RAILROAD

Portions of the old Boca & Loyalton Railroad line extend through SCWA. This railroad began as a spur line built from the town of Boca, along the Southern Pacific route, ending at Lewis Mills in 1897. The company was formally incorporated in 1900, after which time the tracks were extended to Beckwith in Plumas County, providing freight and passenger service to those communities and supporting the then-booming timber industry. Subsequent extensions of the system went west along the Feather River and Spring Garden and Spanish creeks to Quincy, a distance of 80 miles. Combined with additional lines to places such as Indian Creek, Red Clover, and Last Chance Valley, Boca & Loyalton Railroad was one of the major rail companies in the region. However, by 1916 the company went out of business and its lines and property were sold to competitors such as the Western Pacific or for use by timber operators such as the Clover Valley Lumber Company (Fickeworth 1992).

FS-05-17-56-444

This site consists of a small scatter of historic-era artifacts including parts of an iron stove, bricks, tobacco tins, cut and wire nails, a lard bucket, and sanitary and hole-in-top cans and can fragments. The remains of a possible structure pad were also documented at this location. The artifacts and structure pad occur in an area measuring approximately 40 feet in diameter. Based on the documented materials, the site probably dates to the early 20th century. Although the site likely represents the remains of a small dwelling, it does not appear to have been intended for long-term habitation and it may have been used sporadically by ranchers or loggers operating in the area.